

Advice for multilingual families learning at home
during the Covid-19 pandemic

from

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Achievement Service

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HOME LEARNING ADVICE¹

Dear parent,

You are your child's primary educator. During this time children will need what they've always needed; love, attention and opportunities to learn and play. You are loving your children and supporting them through a difficult time. Look after yourself. Minimising your stress is the first consideration for creating a learning environment.

- Try to create a daily routine or structure that works for your family.
- Find some time for children to exercise every day.
- Expect children to do some learning every day.
- Find ways for them to interact with their friends and family by phone, letter or remotely.
- Balance screen/TV time with other activities.

Example timetable below – This is just a guide but could be useful to help maintain some structure and routine throughout days at home. If you have different age groups give older children something independent to do or schedule learning sessions for them at different times of the day.

45 mins Academic learning

45 mins Creative Activities

45 mins Exercise

Have lunch

Downtime

45 mins Academic learning

45 mins Help around the house

Free time

Have dinner

Contact family and friends - phone, Facetime, email

Free time

Get ready for bed

¹ Thank you to Wiltshire Educational Psychology Service for permission to reproduce the information on this page.

For Primary students

Many schools will be setting their own learning and most of the work provided is likely to be revising and consolidating what your child was learning in school. Your school may send a lot of work home but may expect this to be done over a long period of time. Try not to feel overwhelmed and do what you can. A little bit every day will make a big difference.

For Secondary students

Most secondary schools are well set up for remote learning and teachers will be monitoring and adding work to online classrooms for their students. Try to make sure that your child has a place to work and help them to devise a timetable for studying that includes time for breaks and exercise.

If you need something else to keep them usefully occupied, then this list might help

Reading and Writing

- Reading independently
- Reading with a parent
- Listening to audio books
- Writing a daily diary
- Writing stories
- Making a comic book

All of these things can be done in English and/or any other language.

Maths

- Practical hands on maths
- Cooking / cleaning
- Going outside to count things or maths on the patio using chalks
- Maths puzzles/games like jigsaws or lotto
- Online games
- Older children can have a research project or plan a presentation for their parents

Other Skills

- Building models
- Cutting/sticking
- Playdough
- Painting/drawing
- Imaginative play
- Listening to new types of music

Merhaba

¡Hola!

Using your home language for learning

Often, families think that it is necessary to speak to their children in English when they are learning whereas using their home language could produce broader and stronger results. It is vitally important that parents use their strongest language to support their children, giving a secure foundation to build their second, or subsequent, language onto. Having good skills in first language helps children learn English well!

Parents will also want to share the culture and traditions of their family heritage, to help build self-confidence and pride in their child's identity.

Ways that this can be done include:

- Asking questions about what your child has read (in English) in your home language.
- Talking about books with your child and making up stories together. Helping your child to feel proud of his/her language/s. This will help him/her develop a strong cultural identity.
- If your child prefers to use English words, you can still respond and repeat back what they have said in your own language. It is ok to use more than one language if you speak more than one confidently.
- Talking about your child's learning in your home language – can you spot any similarities between key words in your language and English? Can you find the root word?
- Talk about the country from where your family originate. Study geographical features and climates – are there any similarities? Compare and contrast.
- Singing songs, telling jokes, learning rhymes and having fun with language with games such as eye-spy.
- Watching television programs or DVDs in your home language and talking about them
- At this extraordinary time, when the whole world is sharing a unique and worrying experience, it is especially important to stay in touch with family and friends by talking together on Skype or writing emails – a perfect time to share some home language too.



How to help your child continue to learn English at home

Maintaining first language at home is the best way to support your child's second language acquisition. However, if your child is still at the early stages of learning English and you would like to support them learning English at home you could try the following ideas.

The single most important factor in a child's success with English is their parents' interest and encouragement, no matter what their child's age or the parents' level of English.

- Learn together. There are many online websites that can be used to help you learn some English vocabulary.

Duolingo <https://www.duolingo.com/>

British Council <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/>
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>
<https://premierskillseenglish.britishcouncil.org/>

BBC Learning English <https://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/>

This page includes a link to learn in other languages – see below

Learn in your language

- Afaan Oromoo
- አማርኛ (Amharic)
- Português (Brazilian Portuguese)
- ગુજરાતી (Gujarati)
- 한국어 (Korean)
- मराठी (Marathi)
- 中文 (Mandarin)
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)
- తెలుగు (Telugu)
- ไทย (Thai)
- ትግርኛ (Tigrinya)

- Read books together in English - A great alternative is to use audio books or online stories if you are less confident about reading out loud to your child in English. Wiltshire Libraries have a selection of online and audio books <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-ebooks>
- Tune in to a UK radio station and leave it on in the background or watch some English TV.
- Stick post it notes or labels onto everyday objects with the English words e.g. fridge/oven. Have a race to see who can label the most things in five minutes.
- Sing songs together – You Tube will help with nursery rhymes for younger children or pop songs for older children
- Play a game of snakes and ladders or similar in English.
- Try skypeing other friends or relatives who speak English for a chat or writing a postcard to a pen pal.

List of useful websites for home learning sorted by key stage below:

EYFS (Ages 4-5)

Printable workbooks https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=528100_Home%20Learning%20Activities_ALL_E2&utm_term=CTA_activitybooks&dm_i=4U16,BBHG,14S2P5,18PHY,1

6-week work programmes <https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/>

Huge list of websites for EAL learners <https://ealjournal.org/2020/03/20/resources-for-eal-learners-during-school-closures/>

Teaching resources for all key stages <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

National Literacy trust webpage for parents. Age related reading information and resources 0-11yrs <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

games and activities in first language <https://www.digitaldialects.com/>

Home learning packs for every age range and much more
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

KS1 (Ages 5-7)

Learning games + activities <https://www.enchantedlearning.com/>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

Free online audio stories <https://www.eal-teaching-strategies.com/eal-resources.html>

Printable workbooks https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=528100_Home%20Learning%20Activities_ALL_E2&utm_term=CTA_activitybooks&dm_i=4U16,BBHG,14S2P5,18PHY,1

6-week work programmes <https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/>

Huge list of websites for EAL learners <https://ealjournal.org/2020/03/20/resources-for-eal-learners-during-school-closures/>

Lots of different apps for story telling reading etc for primary and secondary
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/emtas/resources-centre>

World stories <https://worldstories.org.uk/>

Teaching resources for all key stages <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

National Literacy trust webpage for parents. Age related reading information and resources 0-11yrs <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

games and activities in first language <https://www.digitaldialects.com/>

Home learning packs for every age range and much more
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

KS2 (Ages 7-11)

Learning games + activities <https://www.enchantedlearning.com/>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

Free online audio stories <https://www.eal-teaching-strategies.com/eal-resources.html>

Printable workbooks https://www.tts-group.co.uk/home+learning+activities.html?utm_source=dotdigital&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=528100_Home%20Learning%20Activities_ALL_E2&utm_term=CTA_activitybooks&dm_i=4U16,BBHG,14S2P5,18PHY,1

6 week work programmes <https://www.robinhoodmat.co.uk/learning-projects/>

Huge list of websites for EAL learners <https://ealjournal.org/2020/03/20/resources-for-eal-learners-during-school-closures/>

Home schooling packs to download (content is very KS2-oriented)
<https://www.ealhub.co.uk/home-learning-area/>

Hampshire EMTAS Primary phase app wheels and secondary phase app wheel – lots of different apps for story telling reading etc for primary and secondary

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/emtas/resources-centre>

World stories <https://worldstories.org.uk/>

Teaching resources for all key stages <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

National Literacy trust webpage for parents. Age related reading information and resources 0-11yrs <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

games and activities in first language <https://www.digitaldialects.com/>

Home learning packs for every age range and much more
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

KS3 (Ages 11- 14)

Huge list of websites for EAL learners <https://ealjournal.org/2020/03/20/resources-for-eal-learners-during-school-closures/>

Hampshire EMTAS Primary phase app wheels and secondary phase app wheel – lots of different apps for story telling reading etc for primary and secondary
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/emtas/resources-centre>

Maths worksheets <https://www.ks3maths.co.uk/worksheets.htm>

Maths homework booklet <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/ks3-maths-free-massive-bumper-homework-booklet-11942062>

KS3 Home learning pack <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/ks3-school-closure-home-learning-resource-pack-t-p-772>

Free English KS3 home learning pack
<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/publications/free-key-stage-3-and-home-learning-pack>

Teaching resources for all key stages <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>

Home learning packs for every age range and much more
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

KS4 (Ages 14-16)

Huge list of websites for EAL learners <https://ealjournal.org/2020/03/20/resources-for-eal-learners-during-school-closures/>

Hampshire EMTAS Primary phase app wheels and secondary phase app wheel – lots of different apps for story telling reading etc for primary and secondary
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/emtas/resources-centre>

GCSE Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>

GCSE revision, multiple subjects <https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

Teaching resources for all key stages <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>

Home learning packs for every age range and much more
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/home-learning-hub>

Literacy resources for all key stages <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/>